

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 00669 130729Z
ACTION HA-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 669

JAKARTA FOR PATT DERIAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: CASES OF HERMON LAGMAN AND JESSICA SALES

REF: MANILA 019 (NOTAL)

1. IN THE COURSE OF A MEETING WITH DND SECRETARY ENRILE JANUARY 11, ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATT DERIAN INQUIRED ABOUT LAGMAN AND SALES QUOTE DISAPPEARANCE UNQUOTE CASES (THE AMBASSADOR HAD RAISED THESE TWO CASES WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS ON JANUARY 3, REFTEL). ENRILE RESPONDED THAT DND HAD NO INDICATION OF ANY ARREST OF LAGMAN BY PHILIPPINE MILITARY ELEMENTS; HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT SALES WAS KILLED QUOTE IN A MILITARY ENCOUNTER UNQUOTE.

2. ON JANUARY 12 IN MEETING WITH SENATOR RICHARD STONE, ENRILE PROVIDED FURTHER ELABORATION. HE SAID THAT EVIDENCE THAT SALES HAD BEEN KILLED IN A MILITARY OPERATION WAS CONFIRMED IN DOCUMENTS CAPTURED WITH SISON, LEADER OF NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY.

3. HE CORRECTED INFORMATION GIVEN DAY BEFORE AND SAID
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PAGE 02 MANILA 00669 130729Z

HERMAN LAGMAN HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN 1972 BUT IMMEDIATELY RELEASED. ARREST HAD BEEN IN CONNECTION WITH SEARCH FOR ELDER BROTHER, FILEMON. IN 1976 HE WAS ARRESTED AGAIN BUT RELEASED SAME DAY. SHORTLY THEREAFTER HIS MOTHER RECEIVED A CALL FROM A MALE VOICE REPORTING THAT HE HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND SHE WENT TO PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY OFFICIALS. THEY CHECKED THEIR RECORDS, HOWEVER, AND CON-

FIRMED THAT HE WAS NOT IN CUSTODY. ACCORDING TO ENRILE HE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE. PRESIDENT MARCOS, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THIS EXCHANGE, REPEATED THAT HE WAS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO IMPROVE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OVER THOSE WHO MIGHT BE IN POSITION MALTREAT PRISONERS AND THAT IN HIS VIEW SUCH CASES IN THE PHILIPPINES WERE BOTH FEW AND FAR BETWEEN.
NEWSOM

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